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THE PACIFIC

SATURDAY

AUGUST 6, 1881.

AN ADMONITION.

[Communicated] (The following remarks, although rendered somewhat out of date, as to the facts columns two weeks in succession, are members of the Board of Health. ED. P.

THE dread of epidemic diseases hangs like a cloud over this fair city at the present time, and the prominent topic of conversation is what ought to be done, and what ought to have been done long ago, to avert them. Small-pox still lurks in some quarters of the town; and, after all we have endured through the measures necessary to prevent its indefinite spread, that fact is bad and depressing enough without the The facilities afforded by the steamers of the Australian and addition of other fears. The announce-100.00 ment that a well known and respected citizen has fallen a victim to typhoid fever has now to be added to that of the re-appearance of small pox. This sad occur-rence cannot but awaken the gravest apprehension in the minds of all. It is but two years now, since, at this very season of the year, an epidemic of fever, which proved fatal to a large number of our white residents, broke out in Honolulu. It was then stated that some of the severe cases took the form of typhoid fever, but this idea was, we believe, generally dis-credited by our ablest physicians. The fever, then, which, at that time, cut off so many lives of promise, although evidently infectious, had not the malignant type of that which has now manifested itself. The infection and contagion of small-pox are not so difficult to deal with as is the risk of catching typhoid fever by those who are brought in contact with the persons and the clothing of a patient. More than this; everything in the room occupied by the patient, from his bed clothes to the very air itself, is tainted with the germs of this terrible disease. More again; we felt safe from the small-pox until it was brought to us from without, but it has long been known that the germs from which come fevers, of the class to which typhoid belongs, are generated everywhere where filth is allowed to accumulate—that a bad drain, an offensive privy, or some accumulation of foul and decomposing organic matter, is invariably found to have been the source from which this disease has been taken. with the invasion of such a disease as

What state is Honolulu in to contend typhoid fever? It is, for its size, one of the worst arranged; one of the worst regulated, and one of the dirtiest towns in the world of all that pretend to call themselves civilized places. Only here and there can we find its parallel. This is a fact that every one, from the highest official down to the humblest citizen, has long recognized to be true. For years we have been talking about it, speculating on our chances in the future, discussing what remedies would be the most effectual, and-doing nothing. The Government has discussed the matter. During a late administration an elaborate report about drainage, removal of nightsoil, and so forth, was drawn up. But the Government appears to have shrunk from advocating the adoption of any measure to provide for the cleanliness of the city. Although \$100,000 was readily put down on the estimates for a Marine Railway, the scarcely larger sum, estimated as the cost of introducing the only really practical remedy for the present state of Honolulu, was said to be unavailable except "under an Act authorizing the issue of Government Bonds, and a tax upon property in this city to meet the payment of principal.' From the day this report was laid before the Legislature until very recently not a single practical step towards the sanitation of Honolulu was taken. We desire to give the present Government all proper credit for what they have done. The Ordinance of the Board of Health recently promulgated, regulating the construction of cesspools within the city, was a step in the right direction. So was the purchase and em-ployment of the "Odorless Excavator" which, where circumstances are sufficient-

ly favorable, is doing good work in the removal of disease-generating matter from our midst. But these things are a very small instalment of what is wanted, and we would earnestly implore the Government to make sanitary measures for Honolulu their first and most anxious care. The public is more to blame than any official person for the perpetuation of the foul and unwholesome condition of the city. Whilst the populace whose interests

are at stake content themselves with talking about the evils which surround them when they are forcibly brought under their notice by some unusual circumstance, and forget them altogether from day to day and year to year, we cannot expect that the Government will appreciate the magnitude of the evil which has to be contended with. Every one who traverses any of our streets when a southerly wind blows, or wher rain has fallen on a still evening, knows that the whole town is as offensive as an illcared-for privy. There are but few premises in the town, in some part of which the least sensitive nostrils are not offended at any time of day or night by the vilest odors. Wherever these are felt, germs of diseases of a malignant type are being generated, and it is only by wonderful chances that we have escaped a fatal epidemic so long. A little exhaustion caused by over exertion, or the debility which follows many minor ailments, create in the human body a condition pre-disposed to receive the seeds of such a disease as typhoid fever and, when this is fully developed in one case, only the most stringent precautions can prevent its spreading. All this is known to every one, yet all go on from month to month, hoping that nothing may happen until startled, as now, from their apathy by the news that disease of a virulent type is actually amongst them, and that one who was a few days ago alive and at work in their midst has already fallen a victim to

the dirt-created demon. Mr. Passmore, member of Parliament, is the author of the following inscription which, carefully printed on mourning cards, was sent to each member of the Liberal gevernment, as soon as it was known that peace had been concluded with the Transvaal. It probably gives a very fair idea of the prevailing feeling on this subject :-" In Memory of

HONOR, Wife of JOHN BULL, Who survived many attacks in Afghanistan, but Her end was Peace." Tue author of the mourning card, "In affec-

tionate remembrance of Honor, the beloved wife

of John Bull, who died in the Transvaal, of Bright's disease, on the 22nd March, and was buried at Candahar," has composed a far cleverer political satire in the shape of an auction bill. It is full of smart and telling points. It announces that Mr. W. E. Gladstone will sell by auction, at the Boer's Head Hotel, the whole of the landed estates, goods, chattels, and effects of John Bull, Esq., who is retiring from business on account of advancing age and ill-health, induced by recent losses in his Transvaal venture, and comprising three kingdoms (united or otherwise,) one Empire, one dominion, forty-eight colonies, and one suzerainty, &c. The lots are separately described and the description of Lot 3, India," will give an idea of the writer's style:-" This magnificent Empire, purchased, by the vendor at an enormous expense, would form a most desirable acquisition to neighbouring owners. The key of the mansion may be obtained on application to Mr. Abdul Rahman, Candahar Lodge, close to the northwest entrance of the demesne. There is a great variety of game on the estate, and also capital And House Servants always on hand bear-shooting within easy distance. In the lot is included a right of way over the Cyprus Estates."

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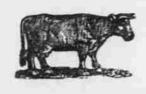
Cases Claret, best brands; Cases Old Maderia and other Wines, Cases Best English Ale, qts and pts; Cases Best English Porter, qts and pts; Cases St. Louis Beer, qts and pts; Cases Boca Beer, qts and pts.

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